



**International Conference**  
**on**  
*Reforms in Criminal Laws:*  
*Past, Present and Future*

**19th October 2024**

*Organised by*

**Centre for Advanced Studies in Criminal Law**

**&**

**Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution**

**Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law,  
Punjab**



# **RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LAW, PUNJAB**

Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law (RGNUL), Punjab, was established by the State Legislature of Punjab by passing the Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab Act, (Punjab Act No. 12 of 2006). The Act incorporated a University of Law of national stature in Punjab, thereby fulfilling the need for a Centre of Excellence in legal education in the modern era of globalization and liberalization.



# **ABOUT CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES IN CRIMINAL LAW (CASCL)**

The Centre for Advanced Studies in Criminal Law (CASCL) is an initiative established by the Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law (RGNUL) to focus on advanced study and research in the field of Criminal Law.

## **Major areas of focus and research for the Center include:**

- Reforms in Substantive and Procedural Criminal Law
- Development of Criminal Justice Policy and Practice
- Human Rights and Rule of Law
- Sentencing Policies and Correctional Systems
- Justice for Victims

## **The Center is dedicated to organizing the following activities:**

- Advanced Study and Research: Exploring Emerging Areas of Criminal Law.
- Professional Training: Offering training and sensitization on the application and enforcement of criminal law in a fair and coherent manner.
- Research Projects: conducting independent research projects or collaborating with professional organizations at national and international levels.
- Publications and Study Material: Producing publications and study materials on various aspects of criminal law.
- Seminars, Workshops, and Conferences: Organizing events on contemporary and significant issues of criminal law.



# ABOUT CENTRE FOR ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (CADR)

The Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution (CADR) has been established to promote students' and researchers' interest in Alternative Dispute Resolution constituting dispute resolution methods like Arbitration, Negotiation, Mediation and Conciliation. ADR mechanisms are slowly gaining momentum and are becoming a part of Indian justice delivery system. CADR endeavours to promote and develop ADR as a vehicle of socio-economic and political justice. The ultimate objective of the Centre is to strengthen ADR mechanism in the country by emerging as a platform for students to further their interests in the field. A strong team of teachers and students is working towards achieving this end.

**The Center is dedicated to organizing the following activities:**

- Advanced Study and Research: Exploring Emerging Areas of ADR.
- Professional Training: Offering training on Mediation
- Research Projects: conducting independent research projects and collaborating with professional organizations at national and international levels.
- Publications and Study Material: Producing publications and study materials on various aspects of ADR.
- Seminars, Workshops, and Conferences: Organizing events on contemporary and significant issues of ADR.



# ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The International Conference on Criminal Laws focuses on critically analyzing India's newly introduced Criminal Laws: Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam. These laws represent a departure from the colonial-era Indian Penal Code (IPC), emphasizing restorative justice and enhancing protections for women, children, and vulnerable groups. Discussions will explore the integration of modern technological advancements in legal procedures and evidence handling to streamline judicial processes and ensure fairness. Any illegal conduct or transgression is considered a crime against the State under criminal law, not the victim, and only the State has the authority to prosecute it. As alternative dispute resolution (ADR) is a conflict resolution process, it is limited to minor crimes such as marital disputes and motor vehicle charges because it is difficult to classify crimes as disputes. However, there are a lot of cases that are ongoing in Indian courts right now. Reducing the excessive workload of litigation on the courts is also imperative.

The conference's main goal is to expand the use of alternative dispute resolution in criminal trials and highlight how crucial it is in light of recent changes to the law. Furthermore, the Conference shall explore the Indian system of ADR, including its kinds, functions, and involvement in the criminal justice system. Additionally, a brief comparison of ADR in criminal justice across various nations will be covered.



# OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

- Analyze newly introduced laws: Evaluate the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bhartiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam.
- Compare with colonial era laws: Highlight differences from the Indian Penal Code of 1860 and other colonial-era criminal laws.
- Highlight transformative changes: Discuss how these new laws aim to decolonize the Indian legal system and shift towards restorative justice.
- Focus on vulnerable groups: Examine specific provisions that enhance protection for women, children, and other vulnerable groups.
- Incorporation of technology: Assess the integration of modern technological advancements in legal procedures and evidence handling.
- To expand the use of alternative dispute resolution in criminal trials and highlight how crucial it is in light of recent changes to the Criminal law
- Promote justice over punishment: Discuss the emphasis on justice and rehabilitation rather than mere punishment, including community service for minor offenses.
- Address organized crime and terrorism: Analyze the new definitions and stringent measures against organized crime and terrorism.



# THEMES

- Decolonizing Legal Systems
- Restorative vs. Punitive Justice
- Protection of Vulnerable Groups
- Gender Neutral Laws
- Legal Measures Against Child Exploitation and Trafficking
- Technological Integration in Legal Systems
- Organized Crime
- Terrorism and Related Offences
- Extradition
- Rights of the Accused and Fair Trial
- Human Rights and Legal Reforms
- Importance of Public Legal Education and Awareness
- Role of NGOs and Civil Society in Legal Reforms and Advocacy
- Influence of Media in Understanding of Legal Reforms
- Role and Effectiveness of Fast-Track Courts
- Role of ADR in Criminal Cases



# PAPER SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Participants will be required to submit an abstract of around 350 words.
- The research papers should pertain to the main theme of the Seminar.
- Abstract shall also contain, the name of the author/authors, the email Id of the author/s contact number and designation.
- Acceptance of abstracts shall be communicated separately.
- Full paper shall not exceed 6000 words. It shall be typed in Times New Roman, Font Size 12 on A4 size paper on any of the sub-themes of the conference with 1" margin on all sides with 1.5 line spacing using MS Word.
- Abstracts and papers shall be required to be emailed to [events@rgnul.ac.in](mailto:events@rgnul.ac.in).
- Citation shall be strictly in accordance with OSCOLA.
- The university may publish selected papers. Selection of papers for publication shall be the exclusive discretion of the University.

# GENERAL GUIDELINES

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

**Last Date for Abstract Submission:** 15th September  
2024

**Notification of Acceptance of Abstract:** 20th  
September 2024

**Last Date of Registration:** 30th September 2024

**Last date to submit Full Paper:** 10th October 2024

**Link for Registration:** [Click here](#)

## REGISTRATION

**Academicians/Professionals:** INR 800 + GST

**Students/Researchers:** INR 500 + GST

**For any co-authorship:** INR 1200 + GST



# ORGANISING COMMITTEE

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Vice Chancellor  
RGNUL, Punjab

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**Prof. (Dr.) Anand Pawar**  
Registrar  
RGNUL, Punjab

## Convenors

**Prof. (Dr.) Sharanjit**  
Professor of Law  
RGNUL Punjab

**Contact No: 98886-88552**

**Dr. Gurmanpreet Kaur**  
Associate Professor of Law  
RGNUL Punjab

**Contact No: 95010-34463**

## Student Convenors

**Ms. Aditi**

**Contact No: 62395-42902**

**Ms. Dhanya**

**Contact No: 84230-57803**

**Ms. Shreya**

**Contact No: 98701-26419**

For queries - [events@rgnul.ac.in](mailto:events@rgnul.ac.in)